

IN THE SPECIFICATION

No changes to the specification are required.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows.

1. (Twice amended) A method of transferring data through a bus, comprising the steps of:

continuously occupying the bus by a first device serving as a ^{bus} ~~bus~~ master, said first device continuously occupying the bus for a predetermined period of time;

transferring a first predetermined number of data items of all data items to be transferred while the first device is occupying the bus, the first predetermined number of data items transferring without interruption based on said predetermined period time [during which the first device is allowed to continuously occupy the bus];

determining if the first predetermined number of data items have been transferred;

determining if the first device should release the bus based on whether or not there is a request from a second device after it is determined that the first predetermined number of data items have been transferred; and

releasing the bus by the first device when it is determined that the first device should release the bus.

6. (Twice Amended) A master control device for controlling an operation of a bus master for transferring data through a bus, the device comprising:

bus occupation request means for outputting a signal requesting to occupy the bus in response to a data transfer request;

data transfer means for transferring a first predetermined number of data items of all data items to be transferred while the bus master is continuously occupying the bus for a predetermined period of time, said data transfer means configured to transfer said first